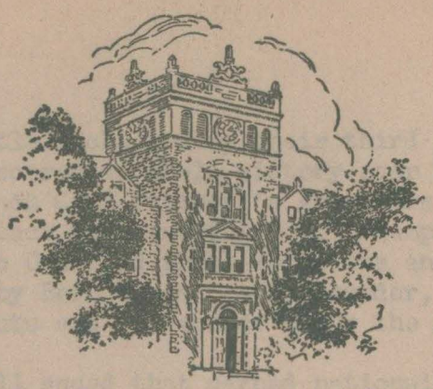
To the

# FRONT



from

# MUHLENBERG

Number 105
February 6, 1947

Dear Mules:

I held this letter until after the game last night with Long Island Univ. and I am happy to report that the headlines in the paper this morning read as follows:

MUHLENBERG DEFEATS LONG ISLAND BLACKBIRDS, 55-53

What a game, what a game! If they have any more like that, I don't believe my blood pressure will stand the gaff. Let me quote part of the story from the Morning Call. "In one of the most thrilling basketball games of the season here, Muhlenberg College basketeers last night defeated the famed Blackbirds of Long Island University by a score of 55-53 in Rockne Hall before an overflow crowd of 3,600 spectators.

In registering their tenth win in fourteen games this season and their biggest triumph of them all, the Mules had to fight every inch of the way, but fight they did right down to the final whistle. In fact, they had only a one-point lead, 54-53, when Mackin was fouled as the game ended, converting after the final whistle to leave the count at 55-53.

The Blackbirds, with two former Muhlenberg College players, Hank Baietti and Bob Smith, playing a prominent part in their attack, had height on the Muhlenberg team almost man for man, and as a result controlled both bankboards throughout the greater portion of the game. However, the Mules more than offset the height disadvantage with their speed and scrappiness. While the entire Muhlenberg squad played hard, fast basketball, perhaps the outstanding player in Muhlenberg's victory was little Al Saemmer, the former Bethlehem High ace and one of the smallest players on his team.

Saemmer seemed to be all over the floor at one time, his speed dazzling the Blackbirds as he would steal the ball away, intercept passes or cut loose with a speedy upcourt dribble that brought cheers from the largest crowd to see Muhlenberg perform at home this season. He tallied 11 points to lead the Muhlenberg scoring."

The Morning Call also had this to say about Clair Bee, famed coach of the Long Island team: "We lost to a good team, the officiating was good and we have no complaints whatever. You don't feel badly about losing those kind of ball games, a game that we might just as well have won by a couple of points as lost it. It was a hard fought ball game from start to finish between two very good teams."

Three busloads of fans, including part of a student band and half a dozen rather goodlooking girl cheerleaders accompanied the Blackbirds to the game and added sparkle and color to the game. A rather interesting phenomena occurred during the game when, despite the fact that the moon was shining brightly outside Rockne Hall, there were two "snow squalls" inside the building. The squalls came first when the front or west doors were opened for necessary ventilation and the second when the rear or east doors were opened. In each instance, the phenomenon was brief but very positive. The papers explained the mysterious condition in that the air was heavily charged with carbon dioxide gas and vapor from the human breath. When the cold air struck the gas and vapor, condensation resulted and snow was formed.

Last Saturday the Mules moved into undisputed possession of first place in the Northern division of the Middle Atlantic Basketball League when they outscored BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY 67-54. It was McGee night in Rockne Hall as the former Central Catholic athlete hit the target from a variety of angles, some of them rafter shots, others loopers and several overhead beauties. Dick bagged five field goals in the first half and added six in the second canto plus a foul for a 23 point total. The entire last period was played as though the game had only one minute remaining. Bucknell guarded all over the court much to the Mules' discomfort but the Barker coached quintet solved this defense with long passes.

In his first appearance in a Mule uniform, little Al Saemmer won the plaudits of the crowd for his crafty ball handling, his aggressiveness and his speed. Al, who was slated as a member of the starting five at the beginning of the season, was kept out of action for the first semester because of injuries received in an automobile accident several days before the season was scheduled to get under way. You'll hear more of him in the games to come.

Muhlenberg's wrestlers chalked up their third successive victory in the present campaign when they scored an 18-14 victory over Temple University Owls at Philadelphia, recently. Coach Carl Frankett's grapplers split even with Temple in the number of matches won, each team scoring four triumphs. However, Muhlenberg scored three falls while the Owls had three decisions and one fall. Fastest throw of the meet was registered by Bert Wessman, 175-pounder, who nailed his man, Cornell, with a keylock only one minute and 55 seconds after the match started.

Honoring a football squad that earned nationwide publicity as the winner of the first annual Tobacco Bowl game and a soccer team that won the Middle Atlantic championship, the athletic committee of the College held the annual football banquet last week. Preceded by a turkey dinner, the meeting was definitely successful in that oratory was held to a minimum. Dr. Tyson congratulated each player and paid grateful acknowledgment to Coach Schwartzwalder and Coach Altemose and their assistants who in their intelligent manner developed "championship teams". Gray coat sweaters with "M" letters and gold footballs were presented to 24 football players and the manager while the soccer squad became the recipients of sweaters and letters and gold soccer balls. Johnny Sweatlock, captain of the football team, presented the coaches with gifts from the players and Johnny Lesko and Homer Robinson, elected co-captains by the soccer squad at the close of the season, gave the players' gift to Altemose.

Four Muhlenberg students were starred on the half hour CBS radio program "Opinion Please" over station WCAU recently. John E.T. Rogers, James D. Wilder, John P. Reumann and Fred Brause drove to Philadelphia and discussed the question "Should 18-year-olds Vote?". The group made a decided hit and were promised an invitation to a similar program sometime in the future.

A testimonial dinner, held in the Lehighton Legion home last week, honored George Bibighaus, outstanding athlete from Muhlenberg. George was presented with a trophy on behalf of the American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania, representing over 300,000 Legionnaires together with other gifts from local merchants.

The student body now on the campus for the current semester will number approximately 1250 men, the largest group ever to matriculate at the College in any one semester. Housing shortages which were slowly turning gray the locks of Business Manager Ned Keiter have been alleviated a bit by the opening of the first of the government-built dormitories which house 62 students. The new dormitory, named South Hall, is located on the south side of Chew Street across from the Chapel. Its 31 rooms accommodate 62 students, two to a room. The rooms are comfortably furnished with two beds, two chests of drawers, study tables and chairs. The building has its own forced hot air heating system. Two other units, each expected to house 50 veterans, are under construction.

The first 12 of 37 apartments for married couples will be ready for occupancy tomorrow and the eager tenants are waiting anxiously for the starting gun. So, when you return, you may find a complete little community here at Muhlenberg - baby sitters and all.

Just two items from the mail bag. COLONEL FRANK M. BROWN '19 is back in Germany where he says the suffering in the cities is terrific.

LIEUTENANT PHILIP VOOZ '44 has been selected to attend the first class of the Air Tactical School at Tyndall Field, Florida. This is the basic school of the Air University System. Academic instruction will be supplemented by field problems and the entire course will be rounded off by a flying program utilizing the latest type aircraft of the Air Forces. At the conclusion of his 16 week course, Phil will return to his station at Washington, D.C. Lucky dog, to spend the winter in Florida.

That's the story from the icy west end of Allentown. Another two weeks should bring more news of basketball victories, the Junior Prom and what have you. Drop us a line in your spare moments and remember, we're always glad to welcome you back to the campus any time you can make a trip here.

Cordially,

John

JOHN H. WAGNER
Alumni Secretary